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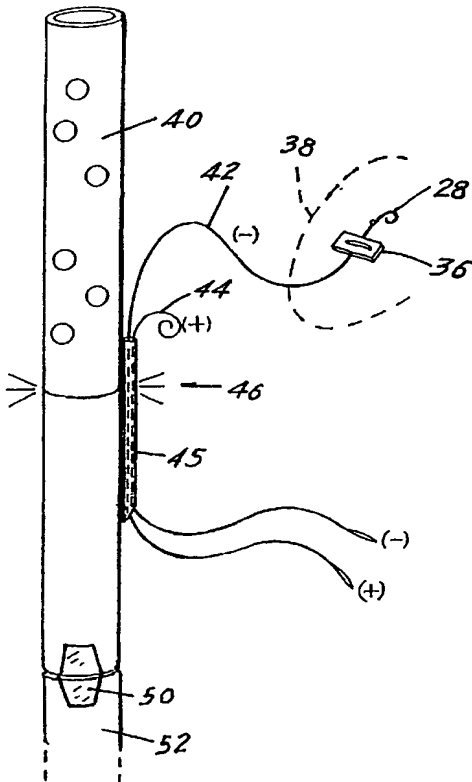
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(54) Title: EPICARDIAL HEARTWIRE, CHEST TUBE WITH EPICARDIAL HEARTWIRE, AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A heartwire comprises a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation; and attached to said distal end, an end structure adapted for non-invasively maintaining the distal end in position adjacent the heart. The end structure may comprise an irregular or three-dimensional, atraumatic structure adapted for engaging a surgical material secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material. The surgical material may be a pledget, and the end structure may comprise at least one of a pigtail, a hook, a tine and a suture sized and shaped for engaging the pledget so as to maintain the heartwire in position. The heartwire may comprise a second wire having a corresponding distal end structure and may be a bipolar heartwire. An arrangement for stimulating a heart may comprise the foregoing heartwire, in combination with a surgical material for being secured to the heart. The heartwire may be combined with and/or secured to a chest tube, and may be removable from the chest tube while still in position relative to the heart. A chest tube may also be combined with an anesthesia delivery tube and/or a wire for carrying cardiac output monitoring signals.

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